

Update information for: “Does your doctor or supplier accept “assignment?”

Please note, since the printing of this booklet in September 1999, the following changes have been made:

1. Cover - The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is now called the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
2. Pages 2 and 3 – The monthly Part B premium is \$54 in 2002. This amount can change each year.
3. Page 3 – There are currently three ways to get Medicare health care. They include the Original Medicare Plan, Medicare Managed Care plans, and Private Fee-for-Service plans. Assignment does not apply to Medicare Managed Care plans or Private Fee-for-Service plans.
4. Pages 3, 5, and 12 – The 2002 version of the Medicare & You handbook is now available. The 2003 version will be sent to all people with Medicare in the fall of 2002.
5. Page 4 – Add the following to “Are there situations when doctors, suppliers or pharmacies must accept assignment?”
 - ◆ For Medicare-covered drugs and biologicals that are billed to a Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier under the durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies benefit. An example would be the medicine used in a nebulizer for people with asthma.
 - ◆ For Medicare-covered ambulance services.
 - ◆ For Medicare-covered drugs and supplies provided by a pharmacy or supplier.

Note: All enrolled pharmacies and suppliers must submit claims for glucose test strips. You **cannot** send the claim in yourself.

In these cases:

1. Your supplier or provider has a legal obligation to send in this claim on an assigned basis. If they don't, call the Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-447-8477 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-377-4950 for the hearing and speech impaired).
 2. If you paid your provider for this service or supply, they must reimburse you under Medicare law.
 3. If you have trouble finding a supplier who accepts assignment, you may want to use a mail order pharmacy.
6. Page 5 – Add – Ask pharmacies and suppliers if they are enrolled in Medicare. This will help ensure that a claim will be sent to Medicare.

7. On page 7, change the last sentence of the second bullet to read:

This does not apply to suppliers unless the supplier furnished a physician service.

8. Page 9 - Change the first bullet to read:

- ◆ There is no limit to what the supplier can charge over the Medicare-approved amount unless the supplier furnished a physician service.

9. Page 11 – Add at the bottom of the page, before “Where can I get more information?”:

How can I be sure that Medicare will pay its share for covered prescription drugs?

If you get Medicare-covered prescription drugs or supplies, ask if the pharmacy or supplier is enrolled in the Medicare program. If not, Medicare will not pay.

All enrolled pharmacies must accept assignment for Medicare-covered prescription drugs or biologicals. If you have paid your \$100 yearly Part B deductible, you only have to pay your 20% coinsurance when you get these items.

“Does your doctor or supplier accept assignment?”

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